

A Light History of the English Language Worksheet

1. What is a linguist?
2. Primitive people had two forms of non-verbal communication: 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and/or
4. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Language on earth began \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
6. Language began when people figured out they could \_\_\_\_\_ air out of their mouth (making the 7. \_\_\_\_\_ sound) or they could put their mouths together and 8. \_\_\_\_\_ (making the 9. \_\_\_\_\_ sound).
10. People figured out how to put their \_\_\_\_\_, 11. \_\_\_\_\_, and 12. \_\_\_\_\_ in the perfect order to create different sounds to emulate nature.
13. What letter sound do you get when you hum while making the 'S' sound?
14. What letter sound do you get when you hum while making the 'P' sound?
15. What letter sound do you get when you hum while making the 'F' sound?
16. What letter sound do you get when you hum while making the 'T' sound?
17. What letter sound do you get when you hum while making the 'K' sound?
18. Consonants were invented by a combination of \_\_\_\_\_ and 19. \_\_\_\_\_ humming.
20. How many vowels exist?
21. What are they?
22. How many DISTINCT VOWEL SOUNDS exist?
23. What are the three sounds?
24. Almost all alphabets have random order, but one sound in 90% of all alphabets \_\_\_\_\_ is the first sound.
25. When the Roman conquered a country, they forced their \_\_\_\_\_ upon them.
26. That language was \_\_\_\_\_.
27. List three countries the Romans conquered: \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_.
30. William the Conqueror conquered England in \_\_\_\_\_.
31. List two leaders from other countries who said the English people were not 'worthy' enough for their language: \_\_\_\_\_ and 32. \_\_\_\_\_.
33. English, today, is \_\_\_\_\_ 'married' to 34. \_\_\_\_\_.
35. If it is a common word, it is most likely \_\_\_\_\_ based.
36. If it is a proper word, it is most likely \_\_\_\_\_ based.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ words are in the Russian language.
38. \_\_\_\_\_ words are in the French language.
39. \_\_\_\_\_ words are in the English language (as of 1997).
40. \_\_\_\_\_ words are in Chinese.
41. The average 8<sup>th</sup> grader uses almost \_\_\_\_\_ words.
42. William Shakespeare used \_\_\_\_\_ words.
43. Who is the greatest Middle English writer?
44. What is his greatest book?
45. Language is changing. According to Professor Engel, our language is turning into \_\_\_\_\_.